Objectives of Vividha Programmes

847. SHRI ANIL SHARMA: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the objectives of Vividha (Hindi and English) programme at present and those conceived at the time of inception of National Channel of All India Radio;

(b) the reasons for dropping Presenters from Vividha (Hindi) and continuing them in Vividha (English); and

(c) by when the services of Hindi Presenters in Vividha will be taken/ resumed on National Channel, All India Radio?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) The objectives of Programme Vividha (Hindi & English) since its inception till date are to provide both information and entertainment at the same time. The canvas of both Vividha (English/Hindi) is the social and cultural landscape of our country. Information regarding different states of the country, their socio-economic development and cultural achievements (festival, fairs etc.) are highlighted.

(b) The reasons for dropping Vividha (Hindi) Presenters is to make optimum use of Hindi Staff Announcers of national Channel. The reasons for not dropping Vividha (English) Presenters is that National Channel at present has no English announcers on its staff.

(c) There is no such proposal under consideration.

Flouting of Indecent Exposure of Women Act

848. SHRI RAJNATH SINGH "SURYA": Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the provisions of Indecent Exposure of Women Act are being flouted by print and visual media;

(b) if so, the reasons for Government being unable to keep a watch and check it;

(c) whether it is a fact that certain foreign TV channels are doing it with impunity; and

(d) if so, whether Government will put a ban on it?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) to (d) A Doordarshan Broadcast Code already exists and all programmes telecast on Television by Doordarshan are governed by it. Doordarshan strictly abides by the provisions of Indecent Representation of Women Act, 1986, while telecasting its programmes. Doordarshan also follows the Code, which ensures that no advertisement has indecent, vulgar, suggestive, repulsive or offensive themes or treatment. The programmes of foreign satellite channels are uplinked from outside the country and, therefore, do not fall under the ambit of Indian laws; unless decoders are required for their reception. To bring the foreign satellite channels within the ambit of Indian laws, programme codes and standards, a comprehensive legislation is proposed for regulating private broadcasting in the country. Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Act, 1995 is also proposed to be amended in order to achieve uniform applicability of Programme and Advertisement Codes on all satellite channels.

All films, including advertisement films intended for public exhibition in India and required to be certified by the Central Board of Film Certification (CBFC) in accordance with the provisions of the Cinematograph Act, 1952 and the guidelines thereunder. CBFC, while examining films for certification, ensures, inter-alia, that human sensibilities are not offended by vulgarity, obscenity, depravity, sex and violence.

In so far as the Print Media is concerned, the Government does not interfere in matters relating to the Press. The Press Council of India is a statutory authority established for preserving the freedom of the Press and for maintaining and improving the standards of newspapers and news agencies in India.

Shifting of office of Doordarshan News

†849. SHRI MOOLCHAND MEENA: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the office of Doordarshan News has been shifted from Akashvani Bhawan to some other place;

(b) if so, the details in this regard; and

(c) the details of the amount spent of shifting of the office?

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†Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.